

Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-11 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
CCO-00 H-01 IO-13 SP-02 OC-06 CTME-00 DUMY-00
SS-15 ICAE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 WRDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 /090 W

-----081267 230510Z /17

R 221952Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1913
INFO FAA WASHDC
FAA BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, PINS, FR'
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ORLY TERRORIST INCIDENT ON MAY 22.

REF: PARIS 16120, 16119

1. SUMMARY: AS SOON AS OFFICIALS ARE AVAILABLE TO TALK WITH US, WE INTEND TO DO A WRAP-UP ON MAY 22 INCIDENT INVOLVING AN EL AL FLIGHT BOARDING PASSENGERS AT ORLY. MEANWHILE WE ARE REPORTING SOME PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT MAY NOT COME TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION. FAA REPRESENTATIVE IS ALSO SENDING A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURES AT ORLY WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL IN VISUALIZING HOW IT TOOK PLACE. INFORMATION THUS FAR AVAILABLE SUGGESTS THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS QUOTES INTERIOR MINISTER BONNET ON MAY 21 AS SAYING THAT IT WAS NOW REGARDED AS CERTAIN THAT ONLY THREE TERRORISTS TOOK PART IN THE ATTACK. ALL THREE
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WERE KILLED AS WAS ONE POLICEMAN. "WE HAVE PROOF THAT THE TERRORISTS DID NOT INTEND TO HIJACK THE PLANE, BUT WERE PLANNING A VERITABLE MASSACRE OF THE PASSENGERS WAITING TO BOARD IT," BONNET IS REPORTED AS SAYING.

3.MAY 22 WIRE SERVICE REPORT SAYS THAT FRENCH POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT ONE OF THE TERRORISTS WAS A

LEBANESE AND THE OTHER TWO WERE TUNISIANS, ALL OF WHOM HAD BEEN IN PARIS SINCE MAY 10. PRESS IDENTIFIES THEM AS MAHMOUD AWADA (LEBANESE, WHO ALSO CARRIED A FORGED KUWAITI PASSPORT IN NAME OF MOHAMED JASIN) PLUS MOHAMED NASR AND TAHAR OUEGHEMI (BOTH TUNISIANS).

4. HERALD TRIBUNE AND LEFIGARO FOR MAY 22 HAVE REPORTED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO DEPARTMENTAL PREFECT FOR VAL DE MARNE (WHERE ORLY IS LOCATED) WHICH INDICATES THAT TERRORISTS FIRED ON EL AL LOUNGE FROM ADJACENT IBERIA CHECK POINT THAT THEY POSSESSED TICKETS FOR MALAGA FLIGHT, AND HAD GRENADES, EXPLOSIVE AND SUBMACHINE GUNS IN HAND LUGGAGE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN DETECTED BY SECURITY IF THEY TRIED TO ENTER EL AL LOUNGE.

5. VARIOUS PRESS ITEMS REPORT CLAIMS THAT ATTACK WAS SPONSORED BY ORGANIZATION CALLED "SONS OF SOUTH LEBANON" AND STATEMENTS THAT PLO CLAIMS TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS GROUP.

6. BOMB HOAX REPORTED REFTTEL RELATED TO FLIGHT FROM CHARLES DEGAULLE AIRPORT. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO EVENTS.

7. WE CANNOT OF COURSE RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CROWDED AIRPORT, SOME AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE IN THE VICINITY. HOWEVER, FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE CONFIRMED TO US THAT THERE WERE NO U.S. CASUALTIES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT EL AL PASSENGERS INCLUDED A LARGE GROUP OF EMPLOYEES OF A FRENCH INSURANCE COMPANY. HARTMAN

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